



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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## AQMD Rule 445, Wood-Burning Devices Fact Sheet

### Background

AQMD has developed the Healthy Hearths initiative to reduce smoke from fireplaces and woodstoves, which is a significant source of air pollution. The smoke contains gases and tiny particles known as PM 2.5 which stands for “particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter.” These particles are so small that the body’s natural defense mechanisms can’t keep them from entering deep into the lungs where they can harm us by reducing lung function, making bronchitis and other lung conditions worse, and triggering asthma and heart attacks. Pollutants from fireplaces and stoves can also cause indoor air quality problems. Additionally, incomplete combustion of wood can produce toxic air pollutants, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Because this area does not meet State and federal health-based air quality standards, and other air districts in California have adopted programs similar to Healthy Hearths, AQMD was required to adopt a wood burning rule.

### Rule Summary

AQMD’s Rule 445, Wood-Burning Devices is applicable to the South Coast Air Basin portion of the South Coast Air Quality Management District and is not applicable to the Coachella Valley. AQMD Rule 445 was adopted on March 7, 2008 and includes the following key requirements:

- Standards for New and Existing Home Construction Projects
  - ✓ no permanently installed indoor or outdoor wood burning device can be installed in new developments (open hearth fireplaces with a gas log set or other design feature that precludes wood burning are acceptable).
  - ✓ a permanently installed indoor or outdoor wood burning device can only be sold or installed in existing homes or businesses if it is one of these cleaner burning options:
    - ❖ U.S. EPA Phase II-certified fireplace insert or stove;
    - ❖ Pellet-fueled wood burning heater;
    - ❖ Masonry heater (not an open hearth wood burning fireplace); or
    - ❖ Dedicated gaseous-fueled fireplace.
- Prohibitions
  - ✓ persons cannot burn anything not intended as fuel (e.g., trash) in a wood burning device.
  - ✓ commercial firewood facilities may only sell seasoned (less than 20 percent moisture content) firewood from July 1 through the end of February each year.
- Mandatory Wood Burning Curtailments (Nov. 1 through end of Feb.)
  - ✓ Solid fuel burning prohibited when a No-Burn day is forecast. Applies to specific areas where PM2.5 levels are forecast to exceed 35 micrograms per cubic meter (federal 24-hour standard).

### Exemptions

Please refer to subdivision (f) of AQMD Rule 445 <http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/reg/reg04/r445.pdf>

### Incentives

Incentives to install gaseous-fueled devices are offered periodically and additional information can be obtained at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov) or [http://www.aqmd.gov/healthyhearths/Incentives\\_FAQ.htm](http://www.aqmd.gov/healthyhearths/Incentives_FAQ.htm)